Commissioner to settle pension claims complete in all respect within 30 days from the date of its receipt in the office.

Salaries not paid to BITV employees

2359. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Management of Business India Television International Ltd. (BITV) a company of the Mumbai-based Business India group has not paid salaries for about 12 months to its more than 400 employees; and has not deposited provident fund and ESIC contribution; and

(b) if so, what steps have been initiated so far taking the question of non-payment of salaries and non- deposit PF and ESIC contribution?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) It has been reported by the Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi that some employees working in Business India Television International Ltd., New Delhi have not been paid salaries for the months of May and June, 1999. It has also been reported that for the period October, '98 to August, '99 out of the total dues of Rs. 72,03,233, remittances to the tune of Rs. 20 lakhs have been made to the Provident Fund Trust. As regard ESI payment, no contribution has been received from the Bombay Branch Office of BITV from May, 98 onwards. A Show-Cause Notice has been issued by the Govt. of N.C.T. of Delhi to the management to show cause as to why the due amount on account of salary for the months of May and June 1999 be not recovered under the Working Journalist and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1955. After issue of show-cause notice the salaries for the said period have been paid.

Action under the Statute has been taken for rocovering Provident Fund dues and a Show Cause Notice has been issued by the ESIC.

Names in employment exchanges

2360. SHRI PRAKANTA WARISA; Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons who registered their names in various employment exchanges of the country during the last five years, State-wise;

(b) the number of people who are provided with employment, State-wise; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to provide employment to all

the persons whose names have been registered in the employment exchanges?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) and (b) The number of registration and placement of job-seekers made by the employment exchanges each year during the last 5 years (1995-99) is furnished in Annexure. [*See* Appendix 189, Annexure No. 63].

(c) The primary objective of the Ninth Plan is to generate greater productive eployment in the growth process itself by concentrating on sectors, sub-sectors and technologies which are more labour intensive in regions charactgerised by higher rate of unemployment and under employment. A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, Member, Planning Commission has been set up to look into the employment generation taking place and suggest measures to generate at least one hundred million jobs in a period of 10 years (Ten Million in each year). The above mentioned steps will also be of benefit to those who were registered with the employment exchanges.

Statistics of child labour

2361. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have exact statistics of total child labour working in the country; and

(b) how many children have already been brought to the school after the implementation of various programmes for child labour elimination?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI MUNI LALL): (a) Authentic information on child labour is generated during the decennial census. As per the 1991 census, the total number of working children in the country is 11.28 million

(b) Under the Scheme of National Child Labour Projects (NCLP) Special Schools/Centres are being run for rehabilitation of children withdrawn from work. 91 child labour projects are under implementaton, in 10 child labour endemic States, for coverage of 1.9 lakh children. as per information received from 21 NCLPs about 13,500 children have been mainstreamed into formal Schools, so far.